

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400430007-7

BERLIN STUDENTS ASK C.I.A. INQUIRY

Free University Group Calls
on Mayor and Rector to Act

Special to The New York Times

BERLIN, Feb. 21 — Student leaders at West Berlin's Free University called today for an immediate investigation into charges that the Central Intelligence Agency had recruited American and other students for intelligence work.

The disclosure in The New York Times of such activities from 1959 to 1962 by a former American student appeared to come as no great surprise to students and university officials.

[Recruitment of students by the C.I.A. was described in The Times Monday by Leslie R. Collitt, a news assistant on the picture desk, who was a graduate student at the Free University from October, 1959, through August, 1962. He remained in Berlin as a free-lance journalist through February, 1964.]

"We have suspected something like that all the time," Walter Kreipe, a spokesman of the allgemeiner studentenausschuss, the students' self-governing body, declared. "However, we have had no direct evidence of such activities."

Asks Mayor To Act

Mr. Kreipe said the student body had called on Heinrich Albrecht, Mayor of Berlin, to take immediate action to halt C.I.A. activities at the Free University.

The students also demanded that the rector of the university, Prof. Hans Joachim Lieber, investigate the charges and undertake steps to "secure the students' freedom from American and other intelligence activities." Professor Lieber is away from Berlin and not available for comment.

University officials said the C.I.A. appeared to have restricted its activity on the Berlin campus to individual recruitment of students and that there was no evidence of any large-scale grants having been funneled to student organizations here.

However, Mr. Kreipe said he had learned that an American front organization known as the Hobby Foundation had in 1963 given a \$100,000 grant to a private nonuniversity group in Berlin that operated in development countries. Mr. Kreipe said it was believed the funds came from the C.I.A.

A lecturer at the university noted that most of the reported C.I.A. activity had occurred before the Communists built the wall, saying there were two in August, 1961, and shortly afterwards. He said that to his knowledge undercover activity had been greatly reduced since the Communists restricted access between East and West.

"At that time we were all ardent anti-Communists," he said, "and many students were

He recalled that after the wall was built students took funds from wherever they could to dig tunnels and carry out other escape operations.

They young assistant, a German, said he had been approached in the late nineteenth fifties as a student at the Free University to make available his postal address for letters to be sent there from unknown persons or groups in Poland.

"I was offered \$12.50 a month for the service, but I found the plan absurd and I refused," he said.

Suspicion in Spain

MADRID, Feb. 21 — The semi-official Spanish news agency Cifra quoted "university circles" in Barcelona today as having said that "it now may be suspected" that the Central Intelligence Agency had been financing and directing students opposed to the Government last year.

The news agency recalled that last March Frederick E. Berger, director for Spain and Latin America of the National Students Association, and Wilfred Rutz, a Swiss citizen and an official of the Netherlands-based International Students Union, took part in a three-day "sit-in" in a Capuchin monastery in Barcelona when the Democratic Students union was created.

Both groups were identified in recent disclosures as having received funds from the C.I.A.

Denial From Assembly

Special to The New York Times

BRUSSELS, Feb. 21 — The World Assembly of Youth denied today that it had received funds from "any clandestine source" or that it had any "direct or indirect links with the C.I.A."

An organization spokesman "categorically" denied such allegations as "completely baseless and unfounded." He added that the organization's basic budget came from "member committee contributions" and that for specific projects it had received funds from private foundations in the United States and Europe.

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400430007-7